



Newsletter

April 2024

Tyner United Methodist Church

"The Pilgrimage Continues"

Dear Church,

Like many pastors, Jeff and I heaved a huge sigh of relief when we left the church after Easter Sunday worship knowing that we'd made it through Lent. Halleluiah! For pastors, Lent can be a bit exhausting.

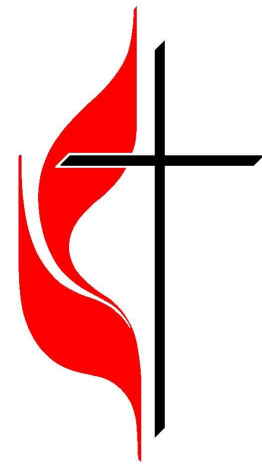
Don't misunderstand me; I don't dislike Lent. It's is my second favorite church season just behind Pentecost (which is much shorter). In addition to managing church activities of the Lenten season, I also commit to spending even more time with God during Lent. I enjoyed the daily morning, midday, and evening prayers my course of study class agreed to do during Lent. They were different than the prayers I usually do—and so far I've continued to use them. I loved how "The Sanctuary for Lent" devotional our church did based on the lectionary readings took me deeper into the scriptures. I made it through the marathon of scripture reading during Holy Week in the lectionary reading challenge! The Walk to the Cross Experience helped me to feel more deeply the sacrifice Jesus made for **my** sin. If pilgrimages are meant to bring us closer to God, my Lenten journey did. I hope yours did too.

As I pointed out in the March newsletter, our entire Christian life is a journey toward God. That means our journey doesn't end on Easter Sunday. Our post-Easter worship series is called "BFF" (that stands for "Best Friend Forever" for you older folks). In his Easter Sunday message Pastor Jeff asked the congregation: "What are you looking for?" He said if you're looking for bad news, spend time on social media or watching the news on television. But if you are looking for Good News, look for Jesus. I hope our Lenten journey showed us new ways to seek Him—and that we don't stop looking for Jesus as we move past Easter. The BFF worship series should help (and help us to brush up on some *Castaway* trivia too).

Christians are "Easter People." Vinita Hampton Wright notes, "Easter is not magical. It is transcendent. Jesus is not somewhere else. Christ is everywhere—through him all creation holds together. He lives and breathes through his body, the Church. So what does it mean to live as Easter people? It means we live as a people, all parts of Christ's Body working together toward a single purpose: love." As we continue the journey, I pray we will continue looking for Jesus and seeking to love Him and love others more each day.



In Christ, Pastor Cathy



BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER

Please continue praying daily—for our church and for your own challenges and anxieties!

*Lord,
When we
don't know
what to do,
you do.*

*Open our
hearts, eyes,
and minds
to you.*

Amen.

Mary [Magdalene's] experience serves as a reminder that Jesus calls each of us out of our own metaphorical graves of sorrow, grief, and despair. He longs to turn our mourning into dancing, our despair into hope, and our sorrow into joy. This Easter, may we be transformed through Jesus' resurrection.

Abigail Browka
 "The Sanctuary for Lent 2034"



Gene & Ginny Morris are in charge of our prayer chain. You can reach them at 574-586-9777 or 989-948-6366

Missions Giving

Several weeks ago the Mission Committee voted to donate the last funds needed by Sharri & Clarence Shively's granddaughter Nora to go to Ecuador on a mission trip. Nora shared some photos of the trip along with her deepest appreciation for our help. The team gave a water filtration system to this family. It is the bucket unit the woman in blue is holding.



GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The "2020" General Conference will meet from April 23-May 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina with 852 delegates representing 54 annual conferences and 130 countries. The bishops of the church convene the conference but have "neither voice nor vote" in the proceedings (April 2 Webinar led by INUMC Bishop Trimble). Delegates were selected at Annual Conference Session.

Pastor Cathy will send out a link to where you can find more information about the resolutions, proposals, and legislation the **GC** (General Conference) is expected to consider. There is A LOT of it and not everything will end up being discussed. If the **GC** votes to make changes in the *Book of Discipline*, 2/3 of the "aggregates of each Annual Conference" must ratify any constitutional changes. In other words, don't expect any quick or immediate changes! The chair of the Indiana delegation to GC, Russ Abel, a conference superintendent from the south part of the state, and Dr. Aleze Fullbright, a conference superintendent from the central part of the state, are hosting Facebook live sessions leading up to General Conference (go to the INUMC Facebook page and click on "More" and then "Videos" at the top of the page). The delegation also plans to report what's happening during their time in Charlotte and immediately afterwards.

Rev. Abel said the Indiana delegations has decided that one of their goals for **GC** is that the people they encounter would see Jesus Christ in them. Bishop Trimble encouraged us all to keep our mission to "Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" in front of us as we move through this season. Pastors Jeff and Cathy plan to do just that. We also ask that you would pray for the Indiana delegates leading up to and during General Conference. Pastor Cathy knows many of them personally. Pray for wisdom and focus as they read through the legislation proposals, to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, and to be representatives of Christ in all they say and do. Pray that they would have endurance and stamina to endure the long days at General Conference—and that they would also enjoy the worship and connectional fellowship of United Methodists from around the world.



General Conference Clergy Delegates

Russell Abel	Robert Fuquay, Jr.
Aleze Fullbright	Lisa Schubert Nowling
Duane Carlisle	Larry Whitehead
Gregory Pimlott	Adriane Rockhill

General Conference Laity Delegates

Christopher Hancock	Shannon Priddy
Kimberly Arnott	Kenneth Einselen
Albert Hildalgo	Carolyn Johnson
Nathan Lundy	Alisa Isaacs-Bailey

Clergy Reserve Delegates

Matthew Lundy
 Marti Lundy

Derek Weber

Laity Reserve Delegates

Janee La Fuze
 Karin Heinicke

MaryKate Anin

God Moments: "A God Sky" by Becky Geyer

I grew up in the 1950's when stores, restaurants, and businesses were all closed on Sunday. Everyone I knew attended church services and my family rarely missed church because my mom, dad, and grandpa were Sunday School teachers.

I remember one Saturday evening when my dad was preparing to teach his Sunday school class the next morning. It was one of the few times I ever saw him cry. He called my mom, brother, sisters, and me to the kitchen table and began reading portions of a book called, *The Day Christ Died*. Soon, we were all crying with him as he read. Crucifixion was the most agonizing, painful, and humiliating death sentence carried out by Roman soldiers. The nails, the crown of thorns, and especially the cross forever reminds us of that day long ago when "mankind *unknowingly* sacrificed" the Son of God. The cross is our sacred reminder of that day, whether we wear it, hold it, or display it in our homes.

Some here at Tyner have already shared their "cross stories" (see the March 2024 newsletter) and I've been invited to share mine. It happened one day as evening approached. I glanced up from my kitchen window and saw an amazing sunset that lit up the western sky. I grabbed my camera to take a few photos. It was such a beautiful sunset! I watched it until the sun fell below the horizon. When the photos came back after they were developed, I tucked them away in a scrapbook.



Months later, I talked to a friend who had photographed an eagle. We decided to share our best photos the next week. A group of ladies had gathered at church to quilt and asked to see our photos too. When I opened my scrapbook, I told them it was my favorite sunset and I called it a "God Sky" because it was so unique. You can imagine my surprise when one of my friends pointed to it and said, "Oh! Look at the cross!" (What?? I thought. I was ashamed I hadn't seen it.) Then, another said, "Look! There is the face of God!:" Everyone said, "Where?" As they took turns looking more closely, someone else said excitedly, "Jesus is hanging on the cross!!" Another said, "I see a dove!" Still another said, "I see an angel." There were others like me that had missed everything at first glance; but once they were pointed out, we all agreed it was a miraculous sunset from God.

How had I photographed a "God Sky" and missed everything, including the cross? I think God had a lesson for me. First, God knows how to humble me. Second, God reveals Himself to each of us in His own way and in His own time. God also strengthens our faith when we stand side by side together and share His insights and revelations with each other.

Note from Pastor Cathy: *I've scanned the photo to include here, but will also post it on one of the bulletin boards at church so that people can see it better (and see if you can find the cross). Copies will be available for anyone who'd like one. Each month I'd like to post a "formal" God Moment on the bulletin board and also offer opportunities for everyone in church to share more informal God moments they experience that month. As Becky says in her last line: God strengthens our faith when we stand side by side and share His insights and revelations with each other.*

Miller's Ministries!

Our next time to lead worship at
Miller's Merry Manor in Walkerton
is Monday, May 6

at 6:00 p.m.



We'll meet
next on
Tuesday,
April 23 at
6:00 p.m. —

all women are invited to join us
for food, fellowship and meaningful
conversation!

ATTENDANCE

AND

OFFERING

WEEKLY BUDGET:
\$1072

March 3 - 33

\$2600 (+\$1528)

March 10 - 39

\$620 (-\$452)

March 17 - 32

\$777 (-\$295)

March 24 - 48

\$480 (-\$592)

March 31 - 50

\$1055 (-\$17)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR
OUR CHURCH**



Scripture Reading Challenge for 2024

Whew! Did you all make it through the added challenge of lectionary reading during Holy Week? Four readings a day was challenging for me. I've heard a couple of positive responses to the devotional resource we used, "The Sanctuary for Lent 2024" by Abigail Browka.

As we move through the season of Easter (which will take us up to Pentecost on May 19), I pray that you would connect to the scriptures. Our next worship series, BFF, may not follow the lectionary as closely as usual, but I plan to pull in the psalms in the call to worship each week.

Full Lectionary Reading calendars are available at the church.



Celebrations for April

- 3 – Sandy Schuster
- 4 - Willow Burch
- 10 – Evan McMahan

Celebrations for May

- 1 – Jim & Cheryl Stull
- 2 – Pastor Jeff Stueve
- 7 – Levi McCallum
- 22 – Clarence & Sharri Shively
- 25 – Joe & Sally Bottorff
- 31 - Ashley Davidson



Palm Sunday & Easter

What an amazing end to the journey of Lent! We began Palm Sunday with a parade of palms and ended worship acknowledging the movement into Passion Sunday by stripping the altar area of decorations during the closing song. We gathered Easter morning for a fellowship breakfast and most of the seats at the tables were filled. The food was delicious as usual! During worship everyone brought a flower forward to help transform the cross into something beautiful. Thanks to all who brought food and helped coordinate the breakfast, to Clarence Shively & Jay Wiegand for helping with the palms & flowers, Pam McMahan for procuring the palms, flowers, and lilies (as well as putting together Easter bags for the kids), as well as our "regulars" who make Sunday morning worship amazing each week!

Men's Lenten Breakfasts

Each Saturday a free will offering was taken.

Koontz Lake Missionary \$400

Walkerton Community \$200

Tyner UMC \$400

Pine Creek Brethren \$360

Funds raised were divided between three local missions: Blessing in a Backpack, Walkerton Food Pantry, and Walkerton Giving Hearts. Each group received \$500.

Easter 2024



WALK TO THE CROSS EXPERIENCE



We changed up a couple of the stations as well as the object carried throughout the experience. Pilgrims picked up a rough rock at the beginning and were invited to lay it at the foot of the cross at the end. Once they did, we offered them a smooth rock with a cross etched in it to take with them.



Seventeen people from our church walked through the experience after worship on Palm Sunday. We more than doubled the number of people outside our church who went through on Friday. Nine people volunteered as hosts on Good Friday and some of them went through the experience again and were not counted in the total. Pastor Jeff said he went through it every time he was at the church that week!

Many people were emotional when reflecting on the great sacrifice Jesus made for our sakes. Some were moved to tears; others spent time in the sanctuary after the walk. Some asked to pray with our hosts expressing gratitude for the opportunity to strengthen their faith. We ordered 60 of the cross rocks and between the Walk to the Cross and Easter morning at church they were all taken.



This year, Pastor Cathy created a handout version for those who could not make it to church or perhaps down to Fellowship Hall. Clarence and Sharri Shively delivered these to four households on Wednesday along with the two types of rocks and the dissolving paper. Pastors Cathy and Jeff also created a video version of the walk. Both are linked on the Connections page of our church website (tynerumc.weebly.com). Pastor Jeff shared the link with the people who receive his blog posts and there were 37 views that weekend. We also added a dark purple sign in front of the church and posted an invitation on our church Facebook page and website. Plans are already underway for next year's Walk!



TYNER
UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
4501 French Street
Tyner, IN 46572

Phone: 574-936-4295
E-mail:
cathy.wesolek@inumc.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE